

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-8, 12, and 15-17, drawn to a method for measuring the effectiveness of a sunscreen composition or other skin preparation.

Group II, claim(s) 9-11, drawn to an apparatus for testing the effectiveness of a sunscreen composition or other skin preparation.

Group III, claim(s) 13 and 14, drawn to a sunscreen composition or other skin preparation.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The special technical feature common to all of the groups cannot be considered a patentable advance over the art given that said feature, namely the sunscreen preparation or other skin preparation, is old. For example, US Patent 5,705,146 discloses sunscreen compositions having an SPF in the UVA range (see col. 3, lines 10-15). Additionally, US Patent 5,968,485 discloses sunscreen compositions having a desired level sun protection factor and a desired level of UVA protection, citing that "SPF" is a commonly used measure of photoprotection of a sunscreen (see col. 4, line 58 – col. 5, line 10).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara Frazier whose telephone number is (571)270-3496. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm EST.

Art Unit: 1614

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel can be reached on (571)272-0718, or Cecilia Tsang can be reached on (571)272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BSF

/Ardin Marschel/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1614